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Economic and Social Council

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventieth session
Agenda item 2(c)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

70/3. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 63/227 on the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[1] in which it was decided, inter alia, to convene at a high level in 2011, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Also recalling its resolution 64/6 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region, in which it, inter alia, requested the Executive Secretary to assist countries in the region in achieving the Goals, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Pacific island developing countries,

Further recalling its resolution 68/2 on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020[2] (Istanbul Programme of Action) in the Asia-Pacific region, in which it, inter alia, requested the Executive Secretary to assist the Asia-Pacific least developed countries in implementing the Regional Road Map for Implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action in the Asian and Pacific Region from 2011 to 2020,[3]

Expressing concern at the slow progress made by the least developed countries in closing development gaps,

Reaffirming that the Istanbul Programme of Action has as an overarching goal to overcome the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

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1 A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

2 *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

3 See E/ESCAP/68/23, annex.

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Reaffirming also that the Istanbul Programme of Action invited the United Nations General Assembly to consider conducting a comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action,

Noting the need to further intensify the engagement of the international community in the attainment of the goals and targets agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action, including the mobilization of additional international support measures and action in favour of the least developed countries and the formation of a renewed partnership between those countries and their development partners,

Reaffirming that the ownership of and the leadership and primary responsibility for their own development lie with the least developed countries,

Noting with appreciation the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, which was held in Bangkok from 14 to 16 December 2011, and the Regional Road Map, which was adopted at that meeting and contains a set of capacity development activities and identifies the key agencies and entities that could be involved in delivering those activities,

Also noting with appreciation the kind gesture of the Government of Cambodia, which offered to host an Asia-Pacific regional high-level policy dialogue on the Istanbul Programme of Action for the least developed countries in early 2015,

1. *Urges* the countries in the region and international and regional organizations to accelerate the implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Regional Road Map in particular, and to participate actively in the Asia-Pacific regional high-level policy dialogue on the Istanbul Programme of Action for the least developed countries;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To organize the Asia-Pacific regional high-level policy dialogue on the Istanbul Programme of Action for the least developed countries in early 2015;

(b) To assist the Asia-Pacific least developed countries in implementing the Regional Road Map for Implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action in the Asian and Pacific Region from 2011 to 2020;

(c) To continue to assist Asia-Pacific least developed countries in achieving other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(d) To submit to the Commission at its seventy-first session a report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

Seventh plenary meeting
8 August 2014